

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as shown on the attached sheets.

CLAIMS 53417

1. (original) A process for preparing ethers, esters or acid anhydrides, in which a cake of a first reactant selected from salts of organic or oxygen-containing inorganic acids or alkoxides disposed on a filter element is flowed through by a solution of a second reactant selected from inorganic or organic acid halides and alkyl halides, so that the insoluble halide salt formed remains on the filter element.
2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, in which the second reactant is dissolved in a solvent selected from hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, ethers ketones and esters.
3. (original) A process as claimed in claim 2, in which the solvent is selected from 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloropropane and mixtures thereof.
4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, in which the first reactant used is an alkali metal salt or the ammonium salt of benzoic acid and the second reactant used is phosphorus(III) chloride.
5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, in which the cake of the first reactant is obtained by precipitating the first reactant out of a reaction solution and filtering the suspension obtained through the filter element.